

MAR 15 2007

Application No.: 10/721,079Docket No.: 4590-239**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A random number generator adapted to receive an input of a number of bits coming from a physical source, wherein the generator comprising, in combination:
 - at least one symbol-generating physical source;
 - an arithmetic encoder; and
 - smoothing means adapted to smooth the residual output biases.wherein the arithmetic encoder comprises at least one table of statistics on the input symbols receiving a piece of information on contexts, several registers, one comparator and one logic unit.
2. (Previously Presented) The generator according to claim 1, wherein the smoothing means is constituted by a linear output function enabling the smoothing of the residual output biases.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The generator according to claim 1, wherein the smoothing means comprises a register, a serial input and a parallel output.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for the generation of random numbers comprising the following steps:
 - reception of several symbols from a physical source;
 - transmission of the symbols to an arithmetic encoder step; and
 - smoothing the encoded symbols using a linear function.encoding the symbols by a number derived from computations of nested intervals, an interval [ms, Ms] corresponding to a symbol s and having a size proportional to its frequency of occurrence.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
 - updating a table of statistics on the input symbols as a function of the contexts;
 - computing the new values of the boundaries of the interval [ms, Ms] by a rule of three; and
 - emptying the registers of the most significant bits that they have in common.

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8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6 5, wherein the encoding comprises the following steps:

1. initializing $m \rightarrow 0$ and $M \rightarrow 1$
2. updating, for each symbol s of the message to be compressed :

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta &\leftarrow M - m ; \\ m &\leftarrow m + \Delta \times m_s ; \\ M &\leftarrow m + \Delta \times M,\end{aligned}$$

3. choosing the compressed message as being the last value of m .

9. (Currently Amended) The method generator according to claim 5 wherein the smoothing function makes use of a polynomial which is, at most, a 15th degree polynomial.

10. (Currently Amended) The method-generator according to claim 2, wherein the arithmetic encoder comprises at least one table of statistics on the input symbols receiving a piece of information on contexts, several registers, one comparator and one logic unit.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the smoothing means comprises a register, a serial input and a parallel output.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the contexts are previous symbols.